Listing of Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A directory gatekeeper for performing alternate routing of calls through a plurality of gateway resources, the directory gatekeeper comprising:

one or more communication devices providing access to a plurality of resource management gatekeepers, each resource management gatekeeper associated with one or more of the plurality of gateway resources;

a processor operable to send a request to a selected resource management gatekeeper to initiate a call through a gateway resource associated with the selected resource management gatekeeper,

wherein in response to a received request, the selected resource management gatekeeper performs alternate routing by dynamically determining an available gateway resource, and notifying the directory gatekeeper of the determined gateway resource, and wherein the directory gatekeeper notifies an inbound gatekeeper of the available gateway resource, whereby the call can be directed through the available gateway resource.

2. (Original) The directory gatekeeper of claim 1, wherein one of the one or more communication devices provides access to a packet-based network.

3. (Original) The directory gatekeeper of claim 2, wherein the packet-based network is an Internet protocol (IP) network.

4. (Original) The directory gatekeeper of claim 1, wherein the one or more communication devices provides access to the public switched telephone network (PSTN).

5. (Original) The directory gatekeeper of claim 1, wherein performing alternate routing of calls includes:

identifying one or more candidate routes based on the received request; and

for each of the one or more candidate routes,

selecting a candidate route from the one or more candidate routes;

determining if the selected candidate route is available; and

if the selected candidate route is available, sending a response to the received request indicating that the candidate route is available.

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6. (Original) The directory gatekeeper of claim 5, wherein performing alternate routing of calls further includes:

if none of the candidate routes are available, sending a response to the received request indicating that the request can not be completed.

7. (Original) The directory gatekeeper of claim 5, wherein selecting a candidate route from the one or more candidate routes includes selecting the least cost route as the candidate route.

8. (Original) The directory gatekeeper of claim 5, wherein selecting a candidate route from the one or more candidate routes includes selecting a candidate route from the one or more candidate routes at a predetermined ratio.

9. (Original) The directory gatekeeper of claim 8, wherein the predetermined ratio is selected such that the likelihood of choosing each of the one or more candidate routes is substantially equal.

10. (Previously Presented) A method for performing alternate routing of calls in a directory gatekeeper, the method comprising:

receiving a request to initiate a call;

determining a list of possible routes for terminating the call;

selecting a route from the list of possible routes by querying a selected resource management gatekeeper to dynamically determine availability of gateway resources associated with the selected route;

if a route is available, sending a response to the received request to initiate a call indicating the selected route; and

if a route is not available, sending a response to the received request to initiate a call indicating that the request will not be completed.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising selecting a route from the list of possible routes by querying another resource management gatekeeper to dynamically determine availability of gateway resources associated with the selected route.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the number includes a numbering plan area (NPA).

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13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the request to initiate a call is an H.323 admission request (ARQ) message.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein each route in the list of routes is associated with a resource management gatekeeper.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the step of selecting a route from the list of possible routes by querying one or more resource management gatekeepers includes:

for each route in the list of possible routes,

selecting a candidate route from the list of possible routes; and

determining if the selected candidate route is available.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein selecting a candidate route from list of possible routes includes selecting the least cost route as the candidate route.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein selecting a candidate route from the list of possible routes includes selecting a candidate route from the list of possible routes at a predetermined ratio.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the predetermined ratio is selected such that the likelihood of choosing each of the one or more candidate routes is substantially equal.

19. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium including software for performing alternate routing of calls through a plurality of gateway resources, the software configuring a computer to perform a method, the method including:

receiving a request to initiate a call;

determining a first list of possible routes for terminating the call;

selecting a route from the list of possible routes by querying a first management gatekeeper associated with the first list of possible routes, to dynamically determine availability of gateway resources associated with the route;

if gateway resources associated with the selected route are available, sending a response to the received request to initiate a call through the gateway resources of the selected route; and

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if gateway resources associated with the selected route are not available, sending a response to the received request to initiate a call indicating that the request will not be completed.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 19, further comprising:

determining that gateway resources are not available on any of the routes in the first list of routes; and

querying a second management gatekeeper associated with a second list of routes, to dynamically determine availability of gateway resources associated with one or more of the routes of the second list of routes.

21. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 20, wherein the number includes a numbering plan area (NPA).

22. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the request to initiate a call is an H.323 admission request (ARQ) message.

23. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein each route in the list of routes is associated with a resource management gatekeeper.